# Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo Friday, May 20, 2016

### **Notes from Commissioner Wagner**

- 1. Reminder: Teachers and all friends of education invited to openline community conference call on **Monday** (May 23)
- 2. Council approves revised Diploma System for public comment
- 3. RIDE to review guidance on nondiscrimination and <u>transgender</u> <u>students</u>, make recommendations to Council
- 4. Judge issues order regarding compliance with Consent Decree on youth, adults with <u>developmental disabilities</u>
- Regional program director chosen as R.I. <u>Special Education</u>
   <u>Administrator</u> of the Year
- 6. Educators, youth workers invited to apply to be 2016 Career Readiness Fellows; applications due June 15

### From the R.I. Department of Education (RIDE)

#### Assessments:

- RIDE announces information on release of <u>PARCC 2016 results</u>; dates subject to change
- **8.** Reminder: Educators can serve on committee to develop <a href="NECAP Science">NECAP Science</a> assessments; applications due **May 27**

#### Instruction:

 RIDE posts updated <u>course catalog</u> for Early Enrollment Program (EEP)

#### **Innovation:**

- 10. RIDE seeking applications for grants for <u>career-technical</u> programs; deadline, June 17
- **11.** <u>Technology</u> conference proposals due **June 1**

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### From the U.S. Department of Education

- 13. NCES releases report on <u>technology and engineering literacy</u> assessment
- **14.** White House Student Film Festival seeking submissions through **July 15**

### From other organizations

- 15. Nonprofit organization, Zearn, offers free tools for math instruction
- 16. New national nonprofit, UnboundEd, offers free <u>curriculum</u> <u>materials</u>, standards guides

- 17. Meet-up event scheduled for teachers, <u>technology</u> entrepreneurs
- 18. Educators invited to register for program, broadcast on 9/11

#### **Action Item Calendar**

Monday (May 23): Roster Verification Principal Review (Stage 1) – Closes

<u>Tuesday (May 24): Special Ed Census, Duplicate Resolution - Due</u>
<u>Tuesday (May 24): Special Ed Census Reporting, Duplicate</u>
Resolution - Due

June 2: Reporting Student Contacts - Due

June 3: Annual School Health Report - Due

June 6: Preliminary Program Core Data - Due

June 6: Roster Verification Teacher Review (Stage 2) – Closes

June 20 – Reports on interventions due

June 30 – Asset Protection Plan due (see below)

July 15 – Housing Aid applications due (see below)

July 8 – Evaluation data due

August 1 – Fast-Track Repair Program intent letter (see below)

### **Notes from Commissioner Wagner**

1. Reminder: Teachers and all friends of education invited to openline community conference call on Monday (May 23) We want everyone to have a chance to give us direct, personal feedback and to share ideas about what's working in our schools, so we are initiating a series of open-line community phone calls so we can talk directly with teachers and all friends of education in Rhode Island. We have sent this message to all teachers:

Teachers have a unique perspective on education – you are the ones making it all happen. We value your insights and your feedback, and we're always looking for new ways to continue our conversations. With that goal in mind, we have set up a series of open-line community phone calls so we can speak with one another directly on a regular basis.

The first call will take place on **Monday** (May 23):

Date: **Monday** (May 23) Time: 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Call-in number: (701) 801-1220

Meeting ID#: 862-142-448

No RSVP required. All Rhode Island friends of education are welcome to join. We will post more information about the call (including an agenda) on the Meeting Wall:

https://www.startmeeting.com/wall/862-142-448

### 2. Council approves revised Diploma System for public comment

On Tuesday, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education voted unanimously to approve for public comment proposed changes to the Secondary School regulations. These changes would revise the current

graduation requirements, or the Rhode Island Diploma System. Under these proposed changes, beginning with the Class of 2021, students would continue to complete 20 credits of coursework plus one "performance-based diploma assessment" (such as a capstone project or portfolio of work) in order to earn a diploma. Students would no longer need to attain a passing score on a standardized assessment; however, students could earn a "Commissioner's Seal" by attaining a passing score (to be determined) on the PARCC or any number of other approved assessments. Students could also earn local diploma "endorsements" for successful completion of various coursework sequences, such as dual-language instruction, STEM, the arts, or service learning.

The Commissioner's Seal and the other endorsements are intended to enhance the diploma by taking seriously the idea of pathways that match students' strengths, interests, and passions. These enhancements will provide students with the opportunity to take ownership of their diploma. One size does not fit all.

We also plan to consider, as a factor in our accountability system, the inclusion of the percentages of students in each school district attaining the Commissioner's Seal and local endorsements. We want to put incentives on the system to serve students better without putting those requirements in front of students as barriers that would prevent them from earning a diploma, which could have lifelong consequences. We have begun seeking public comment on these proposed changes, and we intend to hold public hearings on these proposed changes at the start of the coming school year. You can read the proposed revised regulations here:

http://media.ride.ri.gov/BOE/CESE/051716%20Meeting/Encl3b.pdf .

Here is a link to some FAQs on the proposed revisions to the Diploma System:

http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Diploma-System/Regs FAQs v%202 5%2020.pdf

## 3. RIDE to review guidance on nondiscrimination and transgender students, make recommendations to Council

Last week the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice jointly issued "significant guidance" and examples of best practices regarding policies on ensuring a safe and nondiscriminatory environment "for all students, including transgender students."

On Saturday, we sent you links to this guidance:

General page -

http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/lgbt.html

Dear Colleagues letter -

http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-

201605-title-ix-transgender.pdf

Examples of policies and emerging best practices -

http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oshs/emergingpracti

ces.pdf

The guidance that the Departments issued last week reaffirms our commitment and responsibility to ensure that we provide all students with equal access to education services in a safe and supportive environment. We will continue to support school and district personnel striving to achieve these goals while offering additional privacy options to students upon their request. Providing privacy options to students who, for whatever reason, are uncomfortable with standard restroom or locker-room arrangements

makes good sense and offers a low-cost way for schools to meet the needs of all students.

The Board of Education has established a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of, among other factors, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression. In support of this policy, we have been developing guidance for Rhode Island schools on gender-identity policies, which remain within the authority of local school committees. With the publication of the federal guidance, we will review our own work to see if any areas need further clarification. Our plan is to submit next month to the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education the federal guidance, along with any Rhode Island guidance we deem necessary, for review and discussion among the Council members.

## 4. Judge issues order regarding compliance with Consent Decree on youth, adults with developmental disabilities

This week, U.S. District Court Judge John J. McConnell, Jr., issued an order to the State of Rhode Island requiring prompt action on a number of items. He did so in order to bring Rhode Island into compliance with the U.S. vs. State of Rhode Island Consent Decree regarding the transition of youth and adults with developmental disabilities to supported employment. As part of this order, RIDE will have to collect and transmit additional information through the Special Education Census and we will have to continue our efforts to develop Career Development Plans and services for secondary-school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Along with LEAs, we have shown the court evidence of significant progress we have made in meeting the needs of students and in addressing the requirements of the Consent Decree. We have acknowledged the cooperation and support we have received from the

special education administrators and teachers who work with this population of students.

The new order will require continued efforts on behalf of the students in transition to supported employment, and the new order will also require closer tracking of several key procedures that take place during the transition process. Additionally, Judge McConnell has ordered the state adult-service agencies – the Department of Human Services, Office of Rehabilitation Services, and the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals – to take steps to actively engage with students and families as students transition from school to supported employment. At RIDE, we have worked and we will continue to work with special education administrators in local school districts to implement the requirements of the Consent Decree.

## 5. Regional program director chosen as R.I. Special Education Administrator of the Year

The Association of Rhode Island Administrators of Special Education has honored John Magner as the 2016 Special Education Administrator of the Year. John is the Director of Special Education for the Northwest Special Education Region. John has been a director for more than 20 years, and he has served the president of the association. John's colleagues have recognized him as "an exemplary, dedicated and well-respected leader in special education for the children and young adults in Rhode Island." Congratulations to John on achieving this honor.

# 6. Educators, youth workers invited to apply to be 2016 Career Readiness Fellows; applications due June 15

Governor Gina M. Raimondo and Board of Education Chair Barbara S. Cottam invite K-12 educators; guidance counselors; youth-center staff; faculty and staff at the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode

Island College, the University of Rhode Island; and any individuals who work with youth in government or in a nonprofit setting to apply to be a 2016 Career Readiness Fellow. Rhode Island is undertaking an initiative to promote career readiness throughout our education system and for all students. We need your help and are looking for fellows to take the lead in developing solutions in the following areas:

Project Area 1: Creating a Demand-Driven and Employer-Led Career System

- How can partnerships with industry help improve the quality of career programming?
- Have you thought about ways to better align the K-12 system with the needs of employers?
- Are you familiar with one of the new <u>P-Tech Programs</u> and do you want to explore other creative programs that work with industry to create real career and postsecondary pathways for students?

Project Area 2: Ensuring Rigor and Quality in Career Pathways for All

- Do you have ideas about how to incentivize career professionals to join the teaching corps or about how to increase the skills of existing teachers?
- Do you have ideas about how we can expose more elementaryand middle-school students to different types of careers?
- Have you come up with innovative ways we can improve career advising options for students?
- Have you developed interesting and engaging career-related or work-based curriculum?
- How do we ensure that current and new career-readiness programs are high quality and build the skills that matter to industry?

### Project Area 3: Developing a Career-Focused Accountability System

- In what way should career-focused indicators be included within our state accountability system?
- What indicators will help schools and districts better prioritize career readiness?
- How would you define "career-ready"? What will it take for a student to be considered "college and career ready"?

Project Area 4: Creating Scaled Career Pathways that Culminate in Credentials

- Do you have thoughts about how Rhode Island can expand student pathways from high school to and through postsecondary education and into the workforce?
- Do you want to help identify ways to increase the number of certifications or stackable credentials earned by high-school students?
- Do you want to ensure that all high-school students receive some work-based or experiential learning experience – an internship, summer employment, after-school job, pre-apprenticeship, work experience – as part of the high-school experience?

### Eligibility

If you have a perspective on these areas, then this fellowship is for you! We are looking to award up to four fellowships to K-12 public-school educators; guidance counselors youth-center staff; faculty and staff at the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, or the University of Rhode Island; or any individuals who work with youth in government or nonprofits in our state.

The Career Readiness Fellowship is a chance for practitioners in Rhode Island to make their voices heard and use their experience working with students in classrooms and schools to inform policy around new efforts to expand career readiness for all students in Rhode Island, with a special emphasis on equity and opportunity for traditionally underserved populations.

### As part of the Summer Fellowship, Fellows will:

- contribute toward the creation of a clear vision of what career readiness should and can be in Rhode Island;
- create and hone their own ideas for smart policy around increasing career-readiness opportunities for Rhode Island students;
- offer recommendations for short- and long-term policy changes that must be made to best support career-readiness initiatives in our state;
- conduct research on best practices and what other states are doing to promote career readiness;
- review and analyze labor market information to recommend strategies for developing new career-preparation programs;
- participate in working groups and policy trainings to develop an action plan for career readiness;
- survey the state to engage Rhode Islanders and to obtain ideas from across Rhode Island; and
- participate in state convenings and forums on career readiness.

#### Fellows must be able to commit to:

 attend an in-person, full-day orientation, training and design kickoff (date TBD);

- dedicate at least 100 hours over the months of July and August (the equivalent of 20 hours per week for five weeks); the work will be mostly completed in flexible hours and virtually, although weekly check-ins will be required; and
- being a state leader in career-readiness strategy beyond the summer, by participating in convenings and engaging with fellow educators.

As part of this commitment, Fellows will receive:

- A \$5,000 stipend for their efforts; and
- significant policy and leadership experience, with assistance and mentorship from state policy leaders.

### How to Apply:

Please submit and a no more than one-page abstract with a proposal to address one of the four career-readiness project areas listed above. Proposals should include practical, achievable, but bold ideas the state can undertake to improve the career-readiness system in each area. If chosen, you will spend your time in the fellowship developing and preparing the proposal you submit for state adoption, with the assistance of state and industry leaders.

Applications will be due **June 15**. Please submit with a 1-page resume, including contact information, and your proposal to Arthur.nevins@governor.ri.gov .

Please also use the contact below for any questions:

Art Nevins
Office of Governor Gina M. Raimondo
401-222-8120 (office)
<a href="mailto:arthur.nevins@governor.ri.gov">arthur.nevins@governor.ri.gov</a>

#### **From RIDE**

#### Assessments:

7. RIDE announces information on release of PARCC 2016 results; dates subject to change

The following draft timeline of important dates for the release of the 2016 PARCC results is as follows (note that dates are subject to change):

- RIDE will host a webinar on Friday, June 3, at 9 a.m., to review release timelines and provide details on accessing preliminary data as well as to answer any questions about the release schedule. The invitation to this webinar will be sent out next week to all districts and schools. Note: This webinar will be recorded and posted online for those who are unable to participate on June 3.
- LEAs will be able to access and review *preliminary* PARCC student-level summative results data files in PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> (PAN) starting on **June 10**. Note: This will be a "rolling" release of preliminary data that LEAs will be able to access as Pearson uploads the results files into PAN. Access to preliminary results will be available first for schools that participated in computer-based testing during the early testing window.
- LEAs and schools will be able to access the *final* summative results file via PAN on Monday, **August 8**.
- Districts and schools will be able to access electronic versions of the individual student reports via PAN on Monday, **August 8.**
- Districts and schools will be able to access rosters and summary reports via PAN on Monday, August 15.

- Hard copies of individual student reports should start arriving in schools as early as **August 24**.
- RIDE will conduct a PARCC pre-release meeting with superintendents, school-committee chairs, and principals during the week of **August 15**.
- RIDE will release PARCC results during the week of August 26. The
  results embargo will officially be lifted at the time of the release,
  and the public report will be posted online, the public reporting
  website will go live, and the results will be also accessible via the
  Instructional Support System.

## 8. Reminder: Educators can serve on committee to develop NECAP Science assessments; applications due May 27

RIDE has two opportunities each year for classroom teachers and other educators to participate in the development of the NECAP tests for grade 4, 8, and 11 in science. Educators must complete an application and meet minimum criteria in order to be considered for participation on one of the committees. **Applications are due by 4 p.m. on Friday, May 27.** Successful applicants will be notified by Friday, June 10. For more information, please click on this link: Test Development.

#### **Instruction:**

## 9. RIDE posts updated course catalog for Early Enrollment Program (EEP)

The Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC) and Rhode Island College (RIC) have worked closely to update the RIC Early Enrollment Program (EEP) course offerings. Each course has been reviewed by OPC and RIC to ensure that all courses represent national best practices for concurrent enrollment programs. RIDE has posted the revised version

of the <u>Concurrent Course Catalog</u> for the coming academic year on our website:

### www.ride.ri.gov/dualenrollment.

Some courses have had names or course-number changes; however, there are no changes to the teaching requirements nor are there content changes from the previous versions of these courses. Schools that have taught these courses in previous years have received individual outreach regarding the updates.

If you have questions about this course catalog, please contact Nicole Smith, at <a href="Nicole.smith@ride.ri.gov">Nicole.smith@ride.ri.gov</a> or 222-8436.

#### **Innovation:**

## 10. RIDE seeking applications for grants for career-technical programs; deadline, June 17

RIDE is soliciting applications for "Skill Up Rhode Island: Expanding Student Access to High-Growth, High-Wage Jobs of the Future," a grant program that will provide funding to LEAs that commit to develop or expand programs that:

- provide career-and-technical programming aligned to highgrowth, high-wage areas identified as key to the economic development of Rhode Island;
- foster partnerships between K-12 education, postsecondary institutions, and private-industry partners (student internships);
- include a middle-school student recruitment strategy; and
- encourage partnerships between districts to develop a strategic initiative.

As part of the Fiscal Year 2016 state budget, the General Assembly approved categorical funds to support Career-Technical Education (CTE) in Rhode Island. RIDE has reserved these funds to prioritize the development and expansion of career-and-technical education programs in any one of the eight priority-industry sectors as determined by the Governor's Workforce Board. Funding will support expenses associated with expanding or creating a program that prepares students for success in high-growth, high-wage jobs of the future. The maximum award amount will be \$200,000. The complete application and selection criteria are available here:

http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Students-and-Families-Great-Schools/Educational-Programming/Career-and-Tech/Skill%20Up%20Rhode%20Island%202016.pdf

All Rhode Island LEAs are eligible to apply. Each application must:

- include at least one private-industry partner;
- align to any one of the eight priority-industry sectors as determined by the Governor's Workforce Board; and
- demonstrate preparedness to match 25 percent of the amount awarded.

All applicants and proposed programs must agree to adhere to the 2012 Regulations of the Board of Regents Governing Career and Technical Education in Rhode Island and to the Rhode Island Career and Technical Education Career Preparation Program Standards, which you can access here.

### Applications are due by June 17.

The Governor's Workforce Board priority-industry sectors are:

- bioscience;
- construction management;
- defense/pre-engineering/robotics;
- finance/insurance;
- healthcare/medical;
- hospitality and tourism;
- information technology;
- logistics;
- manufacturing; and
- marine trades.

If you have any questions about this grant opportunity, please contact Steve Osborn, Chief of Innovation, at <a href="mailto:Stephen.Osborn@ride.ri.gov">Stephen.Osborn@ride.ri.gov</a> or 222-8485.

### 11. Technology conference proposals due June 1

Educators, school leaders, policy-makers, technology coordinators, coaches, and students are all encouraged to share implementation strategies, best practices, and lessons learned at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Innovation Powered by Technology Conference, to be held on Saturday, September 17. Proposals will be accepted until the close of business on Wednesday, **June 1**. Amplify great stories, share best and next practices, connect with fellow educators. Only electronic proposals will be accepted, but you can <u>click here</u> for a print version of the proposal form, for planning purposes. You can find more information on the conference at:

http://ride.ri.gov/conference.

Please feel free to share this information with educators and school leaders in your community.

#### Finance:

## 12. Action Item: Deadlines, procedures announced for asset protection plans, housing-aid applications

Below please find information regarding the Fiscal Year 2016 Asset Protection Plan collection, Fiscal Year 2017 Housing Aid, and the Fiscal Year 2017 Necessity of School Construction application, along with the due dates for each. Please take a moment to review this now so that you are able to submit the information before the deadline. We have also shared this information with your business manager.

#### Fiscal Year 2016 Asset Protection Plans

LEAs are required to provide annual asset-protection plans pursuant to statute and regulation. Since 2012, the collection of Asset Protection Plans has occurred online, in order to improve accuracy and to allow for greater ease in completing the forms. To access this website, business managers or other authorized users should log in to eRIDEOnce you log in to eRIDE, there will be an Asset Protection Plan icon located at the bottom of your screen. For your convenience, a user manual has been provided at the bottom of the website. If you do not have an eRIDE account or are unable to access the Asset Protection Plan link, please email Joseph da Silva, at Joseph.daSilva@ride.ri.gov.

Asset Protection Plans for Fiscal Year 2016 are due by **June 30**. Pursuant to RIGL 16-105-5(c), only LEAs that provide Asset Protection Plan information are eligible to apply for funding from the School Building Authority Capital Fund. Thus, it is critical that plans are submitted by the June 30.

### Fiscal Year 2017 Housing Aid Forms

LEAs that complete school-housing projects for repair, renovation, or new construction may be eligible for state housing-aid reimbursement, pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 16-7-35 through 16-7-47. These laws are designed to guarantee adequate school housing for all public school children and to prevent the cost of school housing from interfering with the effective operation of the schools. Fiscal Year 2017 housing-aid instructions and forms are now available online. For detailed information, instructions, and forms, please visit:

### www.ride.ri.gov/HousingAid

Forms are due by **July 15**. Please contact Mario Carreno, at 222-8030 or <a href="Mario.Carreno@ride.ri.gov">Mario.Carreno@ride.ri.gov</a>, with any questions about housing aid.

Fiscal Year 2017 Necessity of School Construction Dates
The School Building Authority has two distinct programs to assist LEAs as you fulfill your obligation to provide safe, healthy, and educationally appropriate school facilities for your students:

- Fast Track Repair Program; and
- Major Projects Program.

The Council considers projects only once a year, in May, for both programs. Because this is an annual process, any LEA that misses the outlined milestones or otherwise cannot keep to the timeline outlined may be delayed to the next fiscal year. Updated Fiscal Year 2017 guidance will be issued later this summer.

Fast Track Repair Program

Step 1 – Letter of Intent

Due on or before August 1

Step 2 – Stage I

Due on or before October 14

Step 3 - Stage II

Due on or before **February 1** 

Step 4 – Council Approval

Commissioner recommends projects to Council on Elementary and Secondary Education for approval by June 2017

Step 5 - Stage III

RIDE design schematic design, design development, and construction documents

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about either program. These deadlines are extremely important, and your assistance is very much appreciated.

### Legal:

### 13. Decisions issued on Section 504 plans, unpaid leave

RIDE has recently issued these to Commissioner's Decisions:

Evidence did not establish that the Johnston School Department failed to implement Section 504 plan; student did not prove that his failing grades and resulting ineligibility to play basketball were the result of discrimination on the basis of his disability.

http://www2.ride.ri.gov/applications/RideDirectory/DOCS/201 6/012-16 S. Doe v. Johnston S.D. 050616.pdf

Tenured teachers accepting certain administrative positions have a statutory right to take an unpaid leave for up to three years under RIGL § 16-13-3(c) as long as they inform their school departments as to the duration of the requested leave and the timing of the leave does not unnecessarily disrupt students.

### From the U.S. Department of Education (USED)

## 14. NCES releases report on technology and engineering literacy assessment

The National Center for Education Statistics has released a report on the results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2014 technology and engineering literacy assessment. The report includes national results on the performance of eighth-grade students. Results are presented in terms of average scale scores and as percentages of students performing at or above the three NAEP achievement levels: *Basic, Proficient,* and *Advanced*. In addition to overall scores, results are reported by racial/ethnic groups, gender, type of school, and other demographic groups. Results are also reported based on students' responses to a survey questionnaire about their technology and engineering learning inside and outside of school. You can access the report here:

http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2016119&utm
 content=&utm medium=email&utm name=&utm source=govd
elivery&utm term=

## 15. White House Student Film Festival seeking submissions through July 15

Through **July 15**, submissions are open for the third <u>White House</u>

<u>Student Film Festival</u>. This year's theme is "The World I Want to Live In." K-12 students are asked to tell a story about what they hope the

future will hold. Films cannot be more than three minutes in length. The official selections will be featured on the White House website and shared across the world through official social media accounts, and students may have a chance to attend the film festival at the White House.

### From other organizations

## 16. Nonprofit organization, Zearn, offers free tools for math instruction

Zearn is a nonprofit education organization that creates interactive math learning content available free of charge. Zearn Math is based on the new standards and the EngageNY / Eureka Math open learning resources. For more information, check out the Zearn three-minute demo video.

## 17. New national nonprofit, UnboundEd, offers free curriculum materials, standards guides

We at UnboundEd are thrilled to announce the launch of our new, national nonprofit organization. UnboundEd empowers educators to make informed instructional decisions by providing the quality materials and training they need to help their students master higher standards. Our new website features:

- free, reliable PK-12 ELA and math curriculum materials based on the critically acclaimed EngageNY;
- our first batch of Standards Guides, a multi-media series designed to improve educators' knowledge of the standards and related content; and
- information about Standards Institutes, our immersive professional learning experiences for teachers and school leaders.

Please visit our website, at <a href="https://www.unbounded.org">www.unbounded.org</a>, and follow us on Twitter, at @UnboundEdu.

You can also read about us in EdWeek: <u>Creators of EngageNY Start</u>
New Archive of Free Common-Core Materials

We believe that with the right materials and support, all kids can master high standards. We're here to help teachers bridge the gap between where their students are today and where they need to be.

## 18. Meet-up event scheduled for teachers, technology entrepreneurs

The Highlander Institute announces that the EdTechRI End of Year Meetup will take place on May 25, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the Tech Collective, 166 Valley St., Building 3, Providence. There is no cost.

Rhode Island is buzzing with excitement around educational technology. Our state is full of high-performing teachers who are seeking new ways to implement blended learning in their classrooms. Our teachers are eager to meet with entrepreneurs to discuss the growing field, observe new tools, and brainstorm ways in which these products can be enhanced. The Highlander Institute has been convening these groups since 2012; if you haven't come to one yet, join us for this upcoming meetup!

Companies in attendance this month include: KinVolved, Class Tracks, InnovateEdu, BKLSchoolVision, StoryBots, Lyriko

Here is the agenda:

4 - 4:20 p.m.: Attendees mingle, with free refreshments

4:20 - 5 p.m.: Companies pitch their product (3 minutes each) and respond to sharks

5 - 6 p.m.: Educators move between company tables to observe products and offer feedback

6 - 6:15 p.m.: Closing

EdTechRI Meetups are drop-in events. Join us between 4 and 6 p.m. as we mingle, share, and connect with one another to enhance the future of technology in our state.

Further information is here:

<u>Link to Eventbrite</u>

### Educators invited to register for program, broadcast on 9/11

As a part of our commitment to education, the 9/11 Memorial Museum invites teachers and students from across the country to participate in a live webinar to commemorate the 15th anniversary of 9/11. This *free* program, broadcast live from the 9/11 Memorial Museum, connects students and teachers from all 50 states with Museum staff and guest speakers to learn about the attacks and the importance of commemoration.

The program will be broadcast live on Monday, September 12, and Tuesday, September 13, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. It will also be recorded and available online for classes that miss the live broadcast. Participants will be introduced to the Museum, learn about 9/11, and hear from Ada Dolch, the former principal of Leadership and Public Service High School in lower Manhattan. Ada was responsible for safely evacuating her students on 9/11 at the same time her sister, Wendy

Wakeford, was at work on the 105th floor of the North Tower. Wendy was killed. In 2005, Ada helped establish a school in Afghanistan in memory of her sister. For more information about Ada's story, click <a href="here">here</a>. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions of Ada during the 40-minute webinar.

To register for the webinar, click here.

For more information and registration details, see: <a href="https://www.911memorial.org/anniversary-schools">https://www.911memorial.org/anniversary-schools</a> or contact the Education Programs Staff at: <a href="mailto:anniversaryintheschools@911memorial.org">anniversaryintheschools@911memorial.org</a>

### RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

http://www.ride.ri.gov/InsideRIDE/FieldMemos.aspx